

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 10-13 and 20.

I. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 16-19 were withdrawn from further consideration as having been drawn to a non-elected species. Applicant requests rejoinder of non-elected claims 16-19 upon allowance of independent claim 1, as claim 1 remains generic to claims 16-19. It should be noted that claim 1 requires no material element additional to those required by the species claims, and each of the species claims require all the limitations of claim 1, therefore claim 1 is **generic** to claims 16-19. Accordingly, Applicant requests rejoinder of claims 16-19. (see MPEP §821.04)

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 14 has been amended responsive to the rejection. Antecedent basis for claim 15 is now found in amended claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

JAO:JAR/hjr

Date: January 15, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--